I recently attended a gathering of the Australian Catholic Schools Principals Association. The main discussion point was the importance and value to schools of having an authentic and meaningful engagement with parents. It provided an interesting array of responses!

The most irrefutable piece of data that was presented was that the most successful schools were able to demonstrate a significant relationship with their parents. Success was defined as enjoying a strong community profile, improving NAPLAN and HSC results, involvement in a range of sporting and extra-curricular activities and strong levels of satisfaction from stakeholders.

The most pertinent aspect of this data was of course that engaged, involved parents contributed significantly to improving student learning outcomes. Parent participation improves student academic success two-fold (Epstein, 2011).

Moreover, there is evidence that demonstrates that it also raises teacher levels of efficacy, satisfaction and creates a sense of community. In other words, positive parental involvement builds social capital.

This data is irrespective of socio-economic status, cultural background or language spoken.

So the verdict is in - schools where parents and teachers positively engage are twice as successful! This provides for a platform of high expectations and consistent frameworks.

In summary therefore, the result of positive parental involvement is that:

Children DO better
Schools GET better

Please be kind to one another,

Santo Passarello
From the Assistant Principal

Last week we reached the halfway point of Term 3 and already we are seeing hints of an early spring in the air. Year 12 have completed their Trial HSC Examinations and have returned to normal classes to receive their results and feedback from teachers. For many, the next month or so will be an invaluable period of learning as they work through their various examination papers and analyse their strengths and weaknesses. Hopefully, a study and revision plan will then take shape that will carry them through to the HSC Examinations early in Term 4. Inevitably for some, their Trial HSC results will come as a much-needed wake-up call. It is even more important that these students take stock of their commitment level and study habits and make some tough decisions before it is too late to recoup lost ground.

In coming weeks we also look forward to - a series of University presentations to Year 12 by representatives from UWS and UNSW; election speeches by the current Year 11 students who aspire to student leadership in 2014; the conclusion of the Principal’s Writing Challenge for this year; Preliminary HSC final examinations for Year 11; and crucial semi-final matches in the NSWCCC Soccer and GIO Cup Rugby League competitions.

In terms of reminders for parents and students this week – most of us are acutely aware of the pitfalls of the internet, especially the potential for upset associated with harassment and bullying using social networking technologies such as Facebook and instant messaging apps. Students who send messages and images need to understand that privacy is almost non-existent in these domains, and that any offensive material they post leaves them open to scrutiny from parents, strangers and, in extreme cases, local Police and the media. While the “selfie” culture has drawn some humorous attention in recent weeks during the election campaign, the darker side of this trend has far more serious implications for young people than some of them seem to realise.

The second reminder relates to student manners and behaviour on public transport. Generally, our students are very well behaved in public and most reports we receive are extremely positive about their manners and cooperation on public transport. Unfortunately, the poor behaviour of a small minority can often overshadow all of this. This week we received a report of a small group of our students on a public bus who not only failed to offer their seat to an elderly man who boarded their bus after them but also sat back and watched him stumble and struggle to keep his feet in the aisle for almost 20 minutes during the journey to Blacktown. While free travel for students on public transport is a benefit that all families certainly appreciate - it does come with responsibilities.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Merit Awards

Another successful fortnight in the world of Merit Awards! Special mention must go to the large number of students who achieved several Bronze Awards this week. Fantastic work!

Congratulations to the following award recipients for this fortnight. These awards will be distributed at upcoming Year and College Assemblies.

Bronze Awards
John Bayeh 7C18

Noah Chen 7C13 2 Awards
Shaun Cleasby 7C18
Eldrin De Leon 7C13
Luke Eekersley 7C15
Jeremiah Francis 7C16
Timothy Hodge 7C11
Louis Kangol 7C12
Andrew Kaskaniotis 7C15
Tej Kehal 7C18
Gregory Kelly 7C13
Ameet Panesar 7C15
Aiden Scott 7C12
Shivpreet Singh 7C14
Corey Spinks 7C13
Campbell Wood 7C11
Aiden Baker 8D16
Mohan Issar 8D19 2 Awards
Kiano Pomente 8E10
Nathan Segavcic 8D22
Michael Capati 9A25
Jamil Dewan 9A24
Bol Kuany 9A24
Hrishikesh Kulkarni 9B3 8 Awards
Patrick Lee 9B4
Jayden Leishman 9B1
Shane Lipscombe 9A24 3 Awards
Daniel Newaj 9A25 2 Awards
Ryan Peatman 9A25
Ford Zapanta 9B6 2 Awards
Kyle Pereira 10C7 7 Awards
James Salazar 10C3
Nirat Sridakham 10C3

Silver Awards
Kiano Pomente 8E10
Delahoya Manu 9B4
Brendan Ram 9B1
Yuvraj Kang 10C8

I know that Year 11 and 12 have been very busy over the past fortnight, but time is running out to get Merits organized for 2013!

Good luck for the next fortnight!

Mrs Marie Lane, Merit Awards Coordinator

A full pictorial of the Bring it On Dance Competition will be featured in the next newsletter.
Feast of the Assumption Mass
The Feast of the Assumption is a day that commemorates the belief that when Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, died, her body was “assumed” into heaven and reunited there with her soul. In his homily Father Peter reminded us that we, just like Mary and Elizabeth, must be ready to answer the call and serve God.

The college is extremely grateful to Father Peter and the other priests who make it possible for the community to celebrate the Eucharist. In the words of our Pope, Mass celebrates the central mystery of salvation, which is the death and resurrection of Christ. This is a very important moment for all because his sacrifice of love is made present. In the Eucharist we meet the risen Christ, listen to his word, and are nourished by his body and blood.

Mr Jim Prendergast, REC Coordinator
From the Director of Studies

Campion College Open Day
Any senior students who think they might be interested in an Arts degree come along to the Open Day at Campion College on Friday, September 13, from 4 to 6pm. This will include an overview of the program there and a tour of the College, followed by an optional formal dinner.

Year 11 Examinations
Year 11 will commence their examinations on Friday 30 August. Students should carefully highlight their examinations and commence preparation with a planned study timetable. It is advised that students arrive at school at least 20 minutes prior to their examination. All morning exams begin at 9:10am and afternoon exams commence at 1:10pm. For some students this will be the first time that they have sat for an exam of two hours in duration. Time management is extremely important and boys are advised to read the instructions on the exam paper carefully. Recommended times are usually provided for each section and boys need to take heed of this. Teachers will provide them with details as to what they should be revising for their examinations.

Boys are also to remember that NO MOBILE PHONES or other electronic devices are to be brought into the examination room.

Using Notes for Revision
Throughout the Preliminary Course students have been encouraged to make notes. The strategies of note making vary but the main ones teachers encourage are:

- Annotations of texts
- Diagrams such as mind-maps, charts, Venn diagrams, tables, graphs or even drawings to capture main ideas
- Paraphrasing – restating learned information in your own words
- Summaries – focus on key points and issues and are shorter and easier to memorise.
- Now is the time for Year 11 students to revisit the notes that they have taken and work on these.
- Arrange them in logical order
- Read them again highlighting key ideas and words
- Summarise the notes in an effort to minimise it so that you can memorise them
- Reduce the information to a mind map or brief outline.

University Open Days 2013

August 24th 2013 (Saturday)
University of Newcastle (Newcastle campus)

August 27th 2013 (Tuesday)
University of Wollongong 6:00-8:00pm Southern Sydney Campus, Loftus, Bookings Essential

August 29th 2013 (Thursday)
University of Newcastle (Port Macquarie campus)

August 31st 2013 (Saturday)
University of Wollongong Sydney City Campus (Circular Quay)
University of Sydney
University of Notre Dame (Broadway & Darlinghurst)
University of Technology, Sydney

September 1st 2013 (Sunday)
University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus

September 7th 2013 (Saturday)
Australian Catholic University (Strathfield campus)
University of New South Wales (Kensington campus)

Australian Catholic University (North Sydney Campus)
September 14th 2013 (Saturday)
Macquarie University

December 2nd 2013 (Monday)
Southern Cross University (Coffs Harbour campus)

December 4th 2013 (Wednesday)
Southern Cross University (Lismore campus)

Year 12 Results and ATARs
Wed 18 Dec 2013 NSW HSC results released
Thu 19 Dec 2013 at 9am ATARS released
Fri 20 Dec 2013 NSW ATAR notice sent

Educational Access Schemes (EAS)
Most of UAC’s participating institutions have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study. Institutions use EAS to make offers of admission in one of two ways. They allocate bonus points or set aside a certain number of places for EAS applicants. There are seven broad categories of disadvantage:

- disrupted schooling
- financial hardship
- home environment
- English language difficulty
- personal illness/disability
- refugee status
- school environment

To be eligible for EAS consideration your educational performance must have been seriously affected, normally for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent, due to circumstances beyond your control and choosing.

Who can apply?
You can apply for EAS through UAC if you:

- are a UAC applicant for undergraduate admission
- have experienced long-term educational disadvantage during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent and are:
  - an Australian citizen
  - a New Zealand citizen
  - a permanent resident of Australia
  - a holder of an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa.

Key dates for undergraduate admissions 2013–14
Applications
You can now apply from August until July 2014 with a single application. Once you have applied you can change your preferences until July.

To avoid a late fee, applications must be completed, paid for and submitted by Midnight Fri 27 Sept 2013.

Applications close for consideration in the Main Round at midnight on Fri 13 Dec 2013.

Final applications close Fri 18 Jul 2014. The processing charge for 2013 Year 12 applicants is $28.

Mrs Danuta Paton
HSC Business Studies
The Trial examination in Business Studies showed a great deal of potential and the Business Studies teachers are very keen to ensure the potential is fully realised.
This year we intend to start the final preparation for the HSC earlier than in the past. Every Tuesday the Business Studies teachers will be in the library from 3.30 to 4.30 for what will be a systematic and highly effective revision program. The program will increase in intensity during the coming holidays. We have put a great deal of thought and effort into what needs to be learned and how it will be learned.
Tess McGlenchy, a current HSC judge in Business Studies, has advised on the concept maps for each section of the course and these are the basis of the revision program. Each concept map incorporates the case study and most importantly the relationships. Tess says the relationships are the key features of answers by the best students in the state. Amanda Whitfield, an educational consultant currently working with the College, has advised on the how and we are sure we have the best ways to learn the material. The good news is that once the material is learned, Amanda argues it only takes three to five minutes a night to retain the material in long-term memory.
We will provide ALL the material needed to do really well in this examination and also help with the organisation that has been a bit of a problem for some students in the past. Indeed, Mr Mulligan, the College Business manager has provided colour-coded folders to maximise the effectiveness of the preparation. There is only one aspect we can’t control: your son. Please, encourage him to give it a go. Yes, he will be tired after six periods and he may need to reorganise some after school arrangements but the benefits of excellent results in the HSC will stay with him for a very long time.

Charles Sturt University Creative Writing Competition
Charles Sturt University (CSU) is calling on Year 10, 11 and 12 students to produce a piece of creative writing and have the chance to win one of four $250 cash prizes. How to Enter:
Write a fictional, creative and engaging story, poem or script of no more than 1,000 words exploring one or more of the following themes:
• family values
• cultural experiences
• social challenges
For more information about the Creative Writing Competition, or about studying at Charles Sturt University, please contact us 1800 334 733 www.csu.edu.au/cwc

Library Update
Do you love to Read? Want to improve your literacy?
Join with other like-minded people at http://love2read.org.au/
Love2read is a collaborative project joining public libraries, government, community groups, media and commercial partners, and of course the public. As well as running The Reading Hour each August, they bring together and showcase the wonderful projects and organisations across Australia which already exist to promote reading and literacy. http://www.thereadinghour.org.au/
The Reading Hour is for everyone and there will be events and activities for all age groups.
The Reading Hour is nominally 5pm to 6pm on 24 August, but events will be happening all day, to avoid or coincide with important sporting fixtures and venue opening hours, and to accommodate the different time zones.
Visit your local library and bookstore to find out what events and activities are taking place.

Student net is back!

After the upgrade to OSCAR there were a few problems with students accessing s-net (student portal); this has now been corrected and both students and staff can access https://snet.parra.catholic.edu.au from inside and outside the CDOP (Catholic Diocese of Parramatta). Sign in with your user name and password as you do at school. This URL will allow students and staff access to e-resources page from home and school - it’s a great resource to use. If you have problems accessing ‘weblinks’ from home use the following username and password.
Username: parramatta
password: education
Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Teacher Librarian
LOTE Update

Bonjour , buongiorno and allow me to say Buenos dias and bom dia everybody!!
I am back from World Youth Day which was a unique, unforgettable and
enriching experience in South America for me and my fellow pilgrims! We went to
Peru and Brazil and Buenos dias and bom dia is how you say
good morning in these two countries.

As soon as I came back, the hard work started for Year 8 students busy preparing their assessment task number three
and Mr Scavo and myself worked hard as well to return their results very quickly! I would like to thank Mr Scavo for always
supporting me and the department in order for it to run smoothly. Our Year 8 students are improving their knowledge about the topic Family and Friends “Gli amici e la famiglia” in Italian and “Les amis et la famille” in French.
They all enjoyed creating the PowerPoint presentation about their families and some of them have a great pronunciation too.

Our Year 9 language students are enjoying very much the topic we are studying at the moment-food! We have watched
an episode of the series “Two greedy Italians” that talked about the food of my region, Piemonte and next Monday after a few lessons talking about traditional dishes they will finally have the chance to taste cannoli, prosciutto and other specialties. They are definitely looking forward to that!

Our Year 10 students are busy studying a unit about our Italian past and history and they recently watched the award
winning movie “La vita è bella”, “Life is beautiful” with Roberto Benigni.

From our great Language department, Arrivederci alla prossima.

Mrs Manuela Lavaselli, LOTE Convenor

Maths Update

Year 12 students in all Mathematics courses still have a great deal of work to do to be ready for the HSC examinations at the start of Term 4. All courses are currently completing topics from the HSC syllabus. After this work is finished, intensive revision and past paper practice will continue throughout the weeks remaining in Term 3. It is essential that students attend all lessons, as we find that students who have frequent absences during this period fail to improve following the trial exams and consequently perform poorly in the final HSC examination.

Now that Year 10 students have indicated their preferences for levels of study of Mathematics in the Preliminary and HSC courses, we remind them that their performance in Year 10 will determine whether or not they have access to a particular course in Year 11. There is no fresh start in Mathematics. Courses in Year 11 start from an assumption that certain outcomes from the Stage 5 course have been mastered. It is essential that students prepare well for the Year 10 Term 4 examination in Mathematics, and that they continue to attend lessons right until the end of Term 4 when the option topics leading to various levels of study in Year 11 will be completed and assessed.

Years 7-9 will have Mathematics tests during Week 10 of Term 3. These tests will contain content and skills from the whole year’s work so far, with more emphasis on the topics studied in Term 3. The diagnostic tests at the end of each chapter and the exercises in the homework book are good sources of practice material, as are the quizzes on the interactive website accessible via the CD accompanying the Signpost texts. Some sections will be common across all classes, while other sections will target different ability levels. Frequent revision of content and skills is the key to success in Mathematics, and the purpose of tests such as these, and regular quizzes without notice, is to encourage appropriate study habits for Mathematics.

Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator

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Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator

Year 7 Science - May the ‘Force Be With You’

Year 7 students have started a new unit on Forces and our class has started to investigate the forces we meet in our daily activities as we drive to school and play sport.

Forces can be a push, a pull or a twist and are so common that we rarely think about what they do, until we have a car crash or head clash! Sir Isaac Newton discovered three ‘laws of motion’. We have learnt about these laws by arm wrestling.

Crash or head clash! Sir Isaac Newton discovered three ‘laws of motion’. We have learnt about these laws by arm wrestling.

While arm wrestling, Newton’s third law, ‘for every action force, there is an equal and opposite reaction force’ was investigated. We also had the amazing experience of blowing up balloons, placing a table on them then standing on the table! The boys were also surprised to see 15 balloons with a large desk on them take the weight of the desk and 9 students! We are in the process of discovering who ‘The Force’ in our class is with the arm wrestling competition.

Will it be Mrs Scalone?

Mrs Melissa Scalone, Science teacher
Year 12 Chemistry

Did you know that wearing a lab coat can actually make you smarter? Scientists (Adam and Galinsky, 2012) coined the phrase “enclothed cognition” to describe the effect whereby subjects showed increased performance on attention-related tasks when wearing a white lab coat. Our Year 12 Chemistry students were given the opportunity to see this for themselves when they donned lab coats and safety goggles to take part in a Kick-start Chemistry Workshop held at the University of Sydney’s School of Chemistry. Mrs Natacha Warnant and I were lucky enough to escort our boys to the hallowed halls of the University on a beautiful sunny winter’s day last month.

It was an excellent opportunity for the students to get a glimpse of University campus life, as well as immersing themselves in a range of hands-on experiments, activities and demonstrations in a state-of-the-art teaching laboratory. Here’s what a couple of the boys had to say about the day:

It was a great day as we were able to gain a deeper and better understanding of the chemistry being learnt at school. The demonstrators who were teaching us were very knowledgeable and were able to describe and explain the experiments quite clearly. I particularly enjoyed the demonstration of the AAS (Atomic Absorption Spectrometer) machine (invented by an Australian!) which allowed us to measure the concentration of an iron solution down to the parts per million level. It was also great to have some time to wander around the University grounds – an eye-opening experience of what is to come after the HSC. Krish Kaleeswaran

The chemistry excursion my peers and I went on couldn’t have been better executed. We started at The University of Sydney with a brief tour, then straight into our lab coats ready to do experiments in the School of Chemistry. This excursion allowed us chemistry students to witness firsthand exactly how some sophisticated instruments and experiments are meant to be handled, giving us a greater understanding than a worksheet ever could. The overall experience was brilliant, and we are all grateful for being privileged with such an opportunity to experience university life, and a whole day to indulge in knowledge. Jacob Tasioulas

Ms Tania Hogan, Chemistry Teacher

Year 10 Sign and Graphic Work Inspiration

During Week 2, Year 10 student Corey Scott and myself (Rohan Hudson) were invited to join a group of students from five different schools to attend a Sign and Graphic Work inspiration course at Mt Druitt TAFE. Throughout our three days there, we were able to get an insight into the diversity of the Sign and Graphic Industry and get hands on experience in the production of signs. Over the period of the course we were asked to produce a T-shirt, LED initial, laser printed designs, a career board on Paul Price the owner of SignCo, redesign a poster advertising the industry and give a presentation showcasing our works. The Sign and Graphic Work inspiration program was a great educational experience overall and we would like to thank Mr Dadisho and Mr Benitez for getting us involved in such a great program.

Rohan Hudson, Year 10 Student
Year 11 Retreat Program

The Year 11 Retreat was a great experience shared with the teachers and our peers. We participated in bonding activities which brought our Year group closer together. We broke up into small groups which allowed us to communicate with people who we normally wouldn’t. The retreat helped everyone spiritually, and many new friendships were created. It was an experience that will be remembered for a long time. Jamie Hill, Year 11

Year 11 Retreat was an insightful experience of peer bonding and reconciliation. Year 11 students made the journey to the Marist Centre in Mittagong. Once there, we engaged in various activities which allowed us to reflect upon our own identity, family and those around us. The most profound experience was that of reconciliation, whereby we apologised to those we have hurt in our past year. We feel that the affirmation activity allowed us to see how our peers perceived us, clarifying relationships between friends and other peers. Overall we have fond memories of Year 11 Retreat and plan to translate what we have learnt into our everyday Patrician Brothers’ life.

Adam Boidin and Isaiah Mercado, Year 11

The Retreat had a great impact on my life because it brought me much closer to God and taught me how to live life to the fullest. I have learnt more about love, respect and dignity but mostly more about God. Uilisemi Manumua, Year 11

The Retreat has given me a chance to ask questions of myself and discover what I represent. As a personal experience it was significant as it was an inner journey for me. Bill Egarchos, Year 11
Thank you to our wonderful, generous and talented Retreat staff:

Mr Noel Bajada, Ms Charmaine Castellino, Mr Alan Dadisho, Mrs Melanie D’Cruz, Mr Chris Ferry, Ms Denise Grzelj, Mr Adam Hartigan, Mr Santo Passarello, Mr Jim Prendergast, Mr Peter Ross, Mr Adnan Saleh, Mrs Melissa Scalone, Mr Mark Strong, Ms Selina Wong, Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Ms Linda Cassell, Mr Michael Said, Mr Scott Gallen, Mr Paul Lown and Mr Mark Domars.
Br Aengus Kavanagh
Sixty Years of Patrician Ministry

Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown takes this opportunity to congratulate Br Aengus on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee - 60 years as a Patrician Brother! What a remarkable achievement! Congratulations Br Aengus from all the Blacktown community.

On the occasion of his 60th anniversary as a Patrician Brother we pause to reflect on Br Aengus’ lifelong contribution to the Patrician Brothers and the mission of the Church, particularly in the service of Catholic education.

Born and raised in Ireland, Br Aengus made his first profession in 1953. He moved to Australia a few years later after completing University, and took up a teaching position at Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield where he was appointed Principal just over a decade later.

Br Aengus often recounts those early years of teaching in Australia when there was no government support of Catholic schools, when many of the staff and nearly all the principals were from religious orders and where the student-teacher ratio was about 60 to 1.

In the early 70s, government funding started to flow to the Catholic sector and Br Aengus, as principal of a large boys school in Sydney’s South West, became integral in responding to new accountability and compliance policies that had to be implemented in schools. Utilising some government funding, Br Aengus was one of the first Catholic school principals to establish in-school professional development for staff.

Professional learning and leadership formation is a passion of Br Aengus’ as he has demonstrated over many years through his work at the Catholic Education Office and his leadership of the ELIM program (a program of professional development for Principals).

Br Aengus also established the Leadership Development Program in 2002, now known as the Emerging Leaders Program, which remains an invaluable tool in building the capacity of new and emerging leaders within the Diocese.

Since 1995, he has also been an inspirational facilitator of the Stephen Covey program, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

Br Aengus has held positions within the Catholic Education Office in both the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Diocese of Parramatta, including being appointed as the inaugural Regional Director of the Outer Western Region of the Sydney Archdiocese. His leadership of the region was during the significant period of vast expansion with the provision of six new schools and planning underway for another three schools. Br Aengus nurtured a strong sense of regional identity in the outer west which was crucial during the establishment of the three metropolitan Dioceses, with the Outer Western Region essentially becoming the Diocese of Parramatta in 1986.

Br Aengus is passionate about his work and he fought hard and successfully for the adequate resourcing of Catholic schools in the Outer West, which were grossly under provisioned, to ensure more families had the opportunity to receive a Catholic education for their children.

Pictured above just prior to his departure from Ireland!
It was also during his leadership of the Outer Western Region that Br Aengus became the Province Leader for the Patrician Brothers in Australia and PNG. Br Aengus was then made Superior General of the Patrician Brothers and returned to Ireland to undertake this enormous task. In his role, he visited the Patrician communities in Ireland, India, Kenya, the US, Australia and PNG and continued to have a great influence on the development of Catholic school leaders through his work with the Congregational Leaders’ Education Commission and the facilitation of numerous programs for Catholic school principals and middle-managers. Br Aengus returned to Australia in 1994 where he has worked in the Diocese of Parramatta as Head of Division Professional Development and Leadership, and as project officer in the REALS and now System Learning teams. During this time, Br Aengus was also reappointed Province Leader of the Patrician Brothers in Australia and PNG. He is a Fellow with the Australian College of Educators, an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University and in 2012 was appointed as national coordinator for ACU’s Masters Degree in System Educational Leadership. A published author of two books on Catholic Education and leadership, and a further one in the making, Br Aengus doesn’t seem to be slowing down anytime soon. He is one of the great missionaries and pioneers of Australian Catholic education and a larger than life character who can spin a good yarn and recount the story of Catholic education with so much detail that you can vividly imagine you were there when it happened. He doesn’t just recall history… he has made it through his outstanding contribution over 60 years as a Patrician Brother, teacher and leader in Catholic education.

Br Aengus is one of the giants on whose shoulders we now stand. We congratulate him on this lifetime achievement. Both the Patrician Brothers and Catholic education in Sydney have been blessed by the talents and selflessness of Br Aengus Kavanagh. We congratulate him on sixty years of Christian ministry as a Patrician and we ask for God's continued blessings upon him and his service.
We settled into Aussie Central, our home for the next week after a long day of travel. After a good night’s sleep, we were ready for Rio. First on the list was Corcovado Mountain where the 30 metre statue of Christ the Redeemer stands, arms outstretched, watching over the city. It was here that we realised we were now at WYD as the photos, the swapping of Koala’s and the conversations with pilgrims from all over the world began while we waited for the train to the top of Corcovado.

We travelled by the train to the top through the beautiful forest and granite rocks, full of excitement, fun and anticipation. The weather played a part, with some groups experiencing sunshine while others had mist and rain. The conditions didn’t change the fact that we were standing at the feet of one of the most iconic images of Christianity. The atmosphere was electric with singing, prayer and reverence as we experienced Christ the Redeemer. We had truly started our journey as disciples of all nations.

After Christ Redentor we had time to explore Rio, but being Sunday very little was open, a new experience for many of us. After a dinner of pizza, we set off for mass at the local church with Bishop Anthony and all the Parramatta pilgrims, including the small group who had been able to get to Iguazu Falls and had now arrived at Aussie Central.

Monday 22 July, enabled the last of the groups to visit Christ the Redeemer at the summit of Corcovado, while others explored the sights of Rio. This gave us the opportunity to become familiar with the Metro and public transport system in preparation for getting to the WYD events in the week ahead. What a day! Many ventured to Copacabana Beach and a swim, others went to Sugar Loaf Mountain and some even managed to seek refuge from the heat in one of the many large shopping centres. We celebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Anthony and with a homily from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the Archbishop of Brisbane. 

Before heading to the WYD Opening Mass at Copacabana Beach, time was spent visiting the many churches in Rio, including the Candelaria Church and the Cathedral of Saint Sebastian where some pilgrims met Bishop Anthony who explained the important features of the modern cathedral. What a difference 24 hours makes - Tuesday’s weather was wet and cooler than the previous day but that didn’t deter the crowd who attended the mass celebrated by Archbishop Orani João Tempesta. He concluded his homily with the words:

Today, we begin this journey, Christ the Redeemer tells us “Come, my friends!” During the journey, learn to say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!” And increasingly hear the Lord telling us: “Be missionaries.” “Go and make disciples of the nations!” And we all respond: “Here we are, Lord, send us!”

The experience of WYD continued with long lines and hours of waiting to get on the Metro. But this couldn’t take away from the sheer joy, the mass of humanity, the national pride and the overwhelming experience of being Catholic and participating in Eucharist.

Wednesday saw an early start, picking up our packed breakfast before heading to the Metro and catechesis with Bishop Anthony at the Basilica da Imaculada Conceicao at Botafogo. Bishop Anthony spoke on Thirsting for Hope, Thirsting for God... You must have hope – and faith and love – you must be the hope for our world. You are called to be the GMD generation, the go-make-disciples generation. Let Christ quench your thirst so that each of you can be a “go-make-discipler”. Do that and what a world we’ll have!
Bishop Anthony celebrated the Votive Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with those gathered from England, Scotland, USA and of course from Parramatta. After mass we headed for the Australian National Gathering at Vivo Rio. Watch the full video of this great event at: http://new.livestream.com/accounts/662353/events/2245667/videos/25320408

Thursday began with Catechesis and Mass at the Candelaria Church with Cardinal George Pell, before we made our way to Copacabana Beach and the Papal Welcome. For the majority of us it was our chance to get close to Pope Francis for the first time as his motorcade made its way along the beach front. During the prayer service he asked, “The young people, to be joyful witnesses of his love, courageous witnesses of his Gospel, carrying to this world a ray of his light.” He concluded, “It is good for us to be here”, putting Christ in our lives, putting on the faith, hope and love which he gives us. Dear friends, in this celebration we have welcomed the image of Our Lady of Aparecida. With Mary, may we be disciples and missionaries. Like her, may we say “Yes” to God. Let us ask that her maternal heart intercede for us, so that our hearts may be open to loving Jesus and making others love him. He is waiting for us, and he is counting on us. Amen.

The queues and wait to get the Metro back to Rio were outweighed by the peace and joy of being with other young and not so young Catholics and being part of WYD 2013.

For the final catechesis on Friday, focused on “Go Forth, Be Missionaries”, we were lucky to have Cardinal Wilfred Napier the Archbishop of Durban, South Africa. Cardinal Napier explained: To be a missionary doesn’t necessarily mean being out there vocally proclaiming the Gospel but it means reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need. It is through our care of and response to others that we then begin to proclaim the Good News. Mass was celebrated with pilgrims from Nebraska, Philippines, Boston, Croatia, Perth, Parramatta and Armidale.

We headed to the Stations of the Cross at Copacabana with the knowledge that we would be heading there again tomorrow for the World Youth Day Vigil and Mass. During the Stations of the Cross, Pope Francis spoke about what the Cross teaches us. Pope Francis then invited us to bring to Christ’s Cross our joys, our sufferings and our failures. There we will find a Heart that is open to us and understands us, forgives us, loves us, and calls us to bear this love in our lives, to love each person, each brother and sister, with the same love. Amen!

Saturday was again a very early start as we had to be packed and ready to leave when we returned for the final time to Aussie Central after the WYD mass on Sunday. Sleeping bags in hand we began the pilgrimage from Aussie Central; soon to join the millions of pilgrims from all over the world for the 9 kilometre walk to Copacabana Beach and the Vigil. The first hurdle was to get our food packages, which took over 3 hours. But now with food for the next 24 hours we made good time getting to the beach and finding our meeting point. We joined Pope Francis and over a million other pilgrims for the prayer vigil on the eve of the final Mass. The highlight of the vigil was a Eucharist procession. The Holy Father also had words of encouragement to those gathered: “In your young hearts, you have a desire to build a better world. I have been closely following the news reports of the many young people who throughout the world have taken to the streets in order to express their desire for a more just and fraternal society - (and here in Brazil), they have gone out into the streets to express a desire for a more just and fraternal civilization. These are young people who want to be agents of change. I encourage them, in an orderly, peaceful and responsible manner, motivated by the values of the Gospel, to continue overcoming apathy and offering a Christian response to social and political concerns present in their countries. But the question remains: Where do we start? What are the criteria for building a more just society? Mother Teresa of Calcutta was once asked what needed to change in the Church. Her answer was: you and I! Dear friends, never forget that you are the field of faith! You are Christ’s athletes! You are called to build a more beautiful Church and a better world. Let us lift our gaze to Our Lady. Mary helps us to follow Jesus, she gives us the example by her own “yes” to God: “I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me as you say” (Lk 1:38). Altogether, let us join Mary in saying to God: let it be done to me as you say. Amen!”
We then settled in for a night sleeping on the beach ready for the WYD Mass in the morning. Waking early we realised that the crowd had grown significantly overnight and now over 3 million people had gathered to celebrate the Eucharist with Pope Francis! The 4-kilometer-long (2.5 mile) Copacabana beach overflowed with people, but yet became the most reverent place of worship as young pilgrims openly expressed their faith during the most amazing celebration of the Eucharist. Again in his homily, Pope Francis challenged the gathered pilgrims: “Go and make disciples of all nations”. With these words, Jesus is speaking to each one of us, saying: “It was wonderful to take part in World Youth Day, to live the faith together with young people from the four corners of the earth, but now you must go and pass on this experience to others.” Jesus is calling you to be a disciple with a mission! Today, in the light of the word of God that we have heard, what is the Lord saying to us? Three simple ideas: Go, do not be afraid, and serve.

As WYD Rio 2013 was drawing to a close Francis invited the young Christians of all nations to the next World Youth Day to be held in Krakow in 2016. The pilgrims from Parramatta Diocese and Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown began the journey home via Santiago and finally QF 28 to Sydney.

The next Focus will include the personal reflections on WYD by the College Pilgrims.
Breaking Bread for the Homeless

A big Breakfast ‘soup kitchen style’ was served on Friday 9 August at the inaugural “Breaking Bread for the Homeless” as part of Homeless persons Week at Marist Youth Care’s new Skills Development Centre in First Avenue, Blacktown. Adam Boidin, James Tikolevu and Mr Prendergast represented the College at the “Breaking Bread” breakfast which was also attended by Michelle Rowland MP, Federal Member of Greenway, John Robertson MP, State member for Blacktown, business leaders from Western and Greater Sydney, students from local high schools and community representatives.

Adjunct Professor Jim Taggart OAM and MC for the event described the simple act of breaking bread together in rough surroundings, replicated just one practical daily hardship experienced by the thousands of homeless people in our community. “Breaking Bread for the Homeless” was launched to raise awareness for Marist Youth Care’s Affordable Housing for Life program which focuses on reducing homelessness.

Cate Sydes, CEO of Marist Youth Care reminded all that “safe housing, education, mentors and employment pathways help young people stay connected to family, education and their community. With support, young people are able to build a brighter future to social and economic independence.”

Patrician Brothers College welcomed the opportunity to continue its support of Marist Youth Care initiatives in the local community.

Jim Prendergast, Religious Education Coordinator

NSWCCC Soccer

Last week, the senior soccer team, along with Mr Borg and Mr Scarpin travelled to Lismore to play in the quarter-final match of this prestigious State wide competition.

On Tuesday morning the boys met at school at the very early time of 6.15am and a little before 7 we were on the road. It was a great trip. The bus was extremely quiet for a few hours but once we had our first stop and the boys had something to eat and drink this soon changed. Lots of laughter and mate- ship could be heard coming from the back of the bus. This made the eleven-hour road trip go quite quickly. Once in Lismore, where it felt like we had gone to an early summer, we went out for an enjoyable Chinese dinner.

Throughout the entire trip (and not just on the field) Mr Borg and I were extremely proud of the young men, who represented our college so well.

Back at the dorm, the FIFA tournament really heated up. This was played in really good spirits and apparently became the pre-match warm up.

The ‘real’ game was scheduled for 11.30 Wednesday morning. After a nice breakfast, the boys had a good warm up and were ready for the match. It was a slow start and it took a few minutes for our boys to settle in to the match. We were down 0-1 after about 7 minutes but this was the wake up our boys needed. The game was played in excellent spirits and our boys did themselves and the College proud. We went in to the break 4-1 up.

It was much of the same in the second half and we came off victorious 6-1. All 6 goals came from amazing team play, but we need to mention Nash who scored 3.

This was a really special team and College moment. Mr Borg, the coach, was very proud of all the team. We really appreciate your efforts boys.

Mr Adam Scarpin, Assistant Coach and Bus Driver

Results – 2013 Athletics Carnival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Champions</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12s</td>
<td>Nicholas Zakhia</td>
<td>Massey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13s</td>
<td>Benjamin Tait</td>
<td>Massey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14s</td>
<td>Leeroy Brown</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15s</td>
<td>Braeden Rodricks</td>
<td>Massey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16s</td>
<td>Pattyloma Luke Aupa'au</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
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<tr>
<td>17s</td>
<td>Marlyn Brown</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opens</td>
<td>Jahnayah Freeman</td>
<td>MacKillop</td>
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New Records

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15s</td>
<td>Brice Starr-Stephens</td>
<td>Delany</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discus – 37.15m</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17s</td>
<td>Brodie Vassallo</td>
<td>Histon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long Jump – 6.32m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PBB School Sport

Indoor Rock Climbing Award Recipients
Jake Hunter
Matthew Mrish
Jacob Weir
Travaughan Leota
Florentino Escasinas
Chris Walker
Henry Ahovelo
Peter Friday
Gergis Abdalla
Connor Cullen
Lachlan Holmes
Jordan Antoun
Dylan Byers
Joshua Carroll
Ben Daly
Dominic Vella
Daniel Brown

Bowling Award Recipients
Carl Cruz: Score 156
Max Tomasic: Score 139
Joe Saba: Score 130
Kyle Morris: Score 119
Yuvaraj Manav: Score 109
Tom Blyberg: Score 106
Jerome Rouss: Score 105
Phillip Lipsombe: Score 100
Cameron Brus: Score 99
Amandeep Sokhi: Score 98

Balmoral St Tennis Award Recipients
Shaun Cleasby
James Salman
Kiano Pomete
Christian Windle
Clarence Ocampo

Find your pic on Instagram @PBBSCHOOLSPORT
OR visit our Facebook Page
Signed up: Tim Simona, congratulated by Chris Lawrence, signed a contract extension last week, and is one of many players the Tigers are able to keep with their salary cap problems easing.

Picture: Anthony Johnson

$1m for marquee men

By Glenn Jackson and Adrian Proszenko

WESTS Tigers will have a $1 million war chest to spend on marquee signings for the 2015 season following Benji Marshall’s decision to part ways with the club.

Marshall will see out the season with the Tigers but is poised to defect to rugby next year after rejecting a $2.1 million, three-year offer to remain with the club.

Marshall is likely to join one of three Super Rugby outfits to have expressed an interest, NSW, Melbourne or Auckland.

While his departure will be felt on and off the field, the move will provide a clear career path for young halves Luke Brooks and Mitchell Moses, who have been tabled lucrative three-year deals.

While there are no real superstars left on the open market for next year, Tigers officials, who are contacting managers to obtain future free-agent lists, believe they are well positioned to chase marquee men for 2015.

“The club now has a massive opportunity to invest in our future,” Tigers chief operating officer Grant Mayer said.

“We are already starting to think about 2015 and marquee players who might be off contract.

“We could potentially have $1 million under the salary cap to spend in 2015.

“That would make us a very popular option for a number of marquee players and their managers.”

The Tigers have begun the process of securing their best talent, having re-signed three-quarter Tim Simona for two more seasons.

They have also locked up Fijian flyer Marika Koroibete for next year, recruited Keith Lulia and re-signed under-20s stars Kyle Lovett and Nathan Brown and SG Ball back-rower Matt Woods.

Premiership-winning winger Pat Richards also returns to the club after Super League.

■ More signings were due to be announced as we were going to press.
NSW/ACT PLAYER OF THE WEEK: JOE REDFERN

Strong NEAFL form has Wagga Wagga’s Joe Redfern edging closer to an AFL debut, but the GIANTS rookie hasn’t forgotten his roots.

Joe Redfern was just 16 when he left his family and friends in the southern NSW hub of Wagga Wagga to move to Sydney and follow his football dream.

The former Mater Dei Catholic College student moved to the bright lights of Sydney at the end of 2011 when he was offered a scholarship with the Slater & Gordon GIANTS Academy.

“I moved here to finish Year 12 as part of the Academy,” Redfern said.

“So I did that and went to school at Patrician Brothers Blacktown which was an opportunity that I probably wouldn’t have had otherwise.

“It’s a great pathway for the young boys in NSW now.

“There’s even more opportunities now, especially since you’ve seen that there is a way to get onto a list from the Academy.”

While fellow Academy-graduate Zac Williams has been able to break into the senior side for seven games in 2013, Redfern has bided his time, working on his game in the GIANTS’ reserves side.

“The NEAFL’s great, I’ve played a couple of games over the last two or three years and you can really see that it’s stepped up each year,” he said.

“Hopefully in the next couple of years it can really get up to being one of those top level state leagues in Australia.”

Redfern first picked up a Sherrin as a kid in Wagga, but didn’t take to AFL instantly.

“I first started playing in about Year 3 because I had a couple of mates from school that played,” he said.

“I probably had one or two Auskick clinics when I was really young but didn’t really enjoy it a lot, then I went back with a mate when I was in about Year 3 and haven’t looked back since.

“I started playing Rugby League then everyone else grew bigger than me so I had to stop that.”

Once hooked though, it didn’t take Redfern long to develop his love of the game.

“I just loved it, my whole family’s played it and it was just one of those sports - I picked it, loved it and had fun with it.

“I think I started playing first grade when I was 15 so you get used to playing against bigger bodies but it is very team orientated and the older boys always look after you.

“Although it’s tough you get used to it, it’s no big deal.”

An athletic forward, Redfern played with the Sydney Hills Eagles in the NEAFL last year in between representing the NSW/ACT RAMS at the NAB AFL Under-18 National Championships and playing for the UWS GIANTS.

He spent the first part of this season injured before making his debut for the GIANTS’ reserves in Round 7, with the 16-year-old kicking 12 goals in his nine appearances.

He will line up for the UWS GIANTS this Saturday morning at Blacktown International Sportspark and strong recent form has him pushing to make his AFL debut before the season is out.

The UWS GIANTS take on Sydney University for the inaugural Chancellor’s Cup which will be presented to the winning side at Scomo Stadium when the UWS GIANTS take on the Melbourne Demons on Saturday afternoon.

While Redfern is now firmly entrenched in his Sydney life, he hasn’t forgotten his southern roots, returning home last month to visit local schools, hospitals and football clubs with fellow Riverina products Zac Williams and Kurt Aylett.

“I try and get back as much as I can, usually over a couple of months we might get a couple of days or a weekend or something to get home so that’s always good and it’s good to get home to see the family and the locals,” he said.

“I usually try and get back to Coolamon and have a run around with the boys out there.

“I miss that aspect of country footy just having a yarn and having some fun with mates so I always try to do that when I get back home.”
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Careers Update
Upcoming Open Days
UTS City campus – Saturday 31 August, 9am-4pm
UTS Kuring-Gai Campus – Saturday 7 September, 12pm-4pm
For information go to UTS Future Students Team 029514 1711
Future.students@uts.edu.au
ACU – Saturday 7 September Strathfield and North Sydney
www.acu.edu.au/penday
Bedford College Sat 7 September (scholarship assessment day) and Friday 22 November
Notre Dame Open Day Saturday 31 August, 9am-3pm, 104 Broadway, Ultimo
www.notredameopenday.com.au

ACU publications on line
- 2014 Undergraduate Course Guide – this provides information about undergraduate courses and opportunities at ACU for domestic students
- Uni and You Guide – this helps students in their transition from high school to university by looking at university life, terminology, student support and key differences
- Study Abroad Guide – this shows the opportunities that exist for ACU students to study abroad as part of their degree
- Early Achievers Program (EAP) brochure – provides an overview of the Early Achievers Program including application criteria, how to apply and the benefits
- Year 10 and 11 Course Guide Essentials – this helps Year 10 and 11 students when they're choosing their subjects
- Faculty of Law brochure – find out about ACU law degrees and what is unique about these global, practical and ethical programs
  http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/future_students/undergraduate/career_advisors/order_publications

TSFX - Final HSC Exam Revision Lectures

Our “Essentials – HSC Exam Revision Lectures” have been designed to provide students with the necessary skills and information to perform to the highest possible standard in the final HSC exams. These lectures will review and then extend on the knowledge taught at school, concentrating on the more challenging concepts, as well as the topics that students find difficult and that have been poorly addressed in past exams. The majority of time will be spent working through potential examination questions, as well as those questions that will serve to differentiate between the lower and higher Band scores.
Dates: Sunday 22 September – Saturday 28 September 2013
Venue: University of Sydney (Camperdown).
Brochures are available in the school library or go to http://www.tsfx.com.au/?hsc-program=end-of-year-revision-lectures

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Did you know St Patrick’s Parish Blacktown and St Michael’s Parish South Blacktown have a combined Facebook page. It is updated daily to let parishioners know what is happening in both parishes. The Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics](http://www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics).

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